

The 'HAWK

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District 7 AMIO Patrol & Sector San Juan Op

MOHAWK departed home port on 04 January, beginning the new year with an Alien Migrant Interdiction Operations (AMIO) patrol for District 7.

Within the first week underway, MOHAWK responded to a distressed U.S. flagged sailing vessel disabled and drifting close to shoal waters after its engine block was dislodged from the hull, and its sails were blown out during a major squall. Despite the strong winds and heavy seas, MOHAWK quickly arrived on scene and launched our small boat crew which skillfully approached and transported the distressed mariner to safety. The survivor was safely brought back to port and was quickly flown home to be reunited with his family.

More recently, MOHAWK offered its flight deck as a platform for a helicopter crew from CG Air Station Borinquen to practice their

at-sea landings and earn their Deck Landing Qualifications (DLQ's). Flight Operations are an all-hands evolution, and every crewmember fills a vital role to ensure safe completion of an extremely challenging and arduous mission. MOHAWK also did a cooperative operation with the CGC CUSHING, a 110' patrol boat out of San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Despite our operational tempo, we continue to train, train, and train some more. Our training program is the backbone of our successful operational missions. We were tested during the Limited Team Trainer (LTT) week we underwent where the crew's hard work and preparation yielded outstanding results in our Damage Control and Weapons evaluations. We earned



Small boat LE ops in the OTH.

a "Battle E" (for "Excellence") in the Weapons now, which means we earned 4 of 5 available in the primary mission areas of Navigation, Seamanship, Engineering, and Weapons. That's a noteworthy accomplishment for MOHAWK and demonstrates our proficiency in meeting any threat the ship may face.



Pictures Underway: crewmembers standing watch; CGC CUSHING; 76mm GUNNEX

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Welcome to all New Crewmembers and their families...we are proud to have you as members of the MOHAWK family!
- Congratulations to everyone who earned a new qualification this underway period
- If you have a story or pictures that you would like to include in the 'HAWK Newsletters, please email John.W.Beal@uscg.mil for submission



The Last Inport

I hope that everyone enjoyed their Holidays and got to spend some quality time with their friends and family who serve aboard MOHAWK. Despite the Holiday Season, the crew was still working diligently this last inport to ensure MOHAWK was fully mission capable and ready for the next patrol.

To the left are two pictures from the inport. The top picture is of the crewmembers who represented MOHAWK in a benefit golf tournament, with funds going toward the upcoming Coast Guard Ball. The bottom picture was taken at the MOHAWK/THETIS joint Holiday Morale party which was held at the Sunset Lounge on Sigsbee. Overall more than 100 crewmembers and their families attended the party and many walked away with flashy new gifts that they won in the raffle.



San Juan Zip-line Eco Tour

During our port call in San Juan, Puerto Rico the Morale Committee planned and sponsored an ecotourism trip. We kayaked, hiked, explored the local flora and fauna, and enjoyed the wild ride down five zip-lines. The final zip-line delivered everyone to a small restaurant where we were served a typical local dinner, pork with rice, salad, and pineapple. Everyone enjoyed the trip and captured pictures and video of the trip. The crew was able to explore Old San Juan and participated in the San Sebastian Festival while we were there.



Damage Control Olympics

MOHAWK ran some competitive Damage Control drills underway. They served as an opportunity for teams to practice their skills and prove their knowledge, both for the practical sense and in preparation for the Limited Team Training with ATG Mayport. Six teams of 6 crewmembers competed, and the winning team consisted of SK2 Eckery, GM2 McLaughlin, FS3 Lenard, SN Hall, SN Ortiz, and SN Kersey. Below are some pictures of the events.



From the Commanding Officer's Desk

To the Friends and Family of the MOHAWK:

Hello from the Caribbean. I hope this newsletter finds everyone in good health, great spirits, and “recovering” from a happy holiday season. Speaking for all of the MOHAWK sailors, we felt truly fortunate to be inport with our friends and families over Thanksgiving and the December holiday season. For many of the older salts onboard, we have spent several holidays underway on cutters. While we are always proud and willing to serve, nothing beats being home.

With the holidays behind us, we are underway again doing the nation's business at sea as only the MOHAWK can do it. Your loved ones have been working hard on Search and Rescue cases, illegal alien interdiction operations, helicopter training evolutions, and most recently a Limited Team Trainer where inspectors evaluated our operational and engineering capabilities. Due to the crew's hard work, we nearly earned the coveted “clean sweep” by earning the Battle “E” for excellence in four out of five training areas: Seamanship, Navigation, Engineering, and Weaponry. We barely missed earning the fifth in Damage Control but that gives us a goal to aim for in the future. The next time you visit the ship, look for the various colored “E”s on the side of the gun mount, the bridge, and the exhaust stack. They reflect the crew's hard work, dedication, and commitment and are a constant source of pride for every person onboard.

As we finish this patrol and look towards the spring and summer transfer seasons, we'll have to say goodbye to many of our shipmates and simultaneously welcome new ones into the MOHAWK family. Transfer season is always challenging because we have to balance the needs of the ship against the needs of the member especially regarding specific departure dates. We will do our best to find that balance so I appreciate your cooperation throughout the process. If you are departing for a new duty station this summer, I wish you fair winds and please let us know if there is anything we can do to make your transition a little smoother. We have a thorough “check out” process that captures all the required administrative requirements but let us know if an issue falls between the cracks. If you've served on MOHAWK then you will always be a member of this family and we'll do whatever we can to help.

If you have questions or concerns about the ship while we are underway, please contact our Ombudsman, Mrs. Kristin Kane, at MOHAWKOmbudsman@yahoo.com. Since her husband is departing MOHAWK this summer, we will need a new Ombudsman. If you are interested, please let me know at mark.j.fedor@uscg.mil. The Ombudsman serves as a direct link between me and family members back home. It is a challenging position but it is also incredibly rewarding to know how much you help MOHAWK family members.

Also, please become a friend of the MOHAWK and follow our activities on Facebook at [U.S. Coast Guard Cutter MOHAWK](#). Ensure you search for us with that specific title. If you just search for “MOHAWK” you may be directed to an older site that is no longer active. We are planning to post more material on our Facebook site so please stay tuned!

Thank you again for supporting your MOHAWK sailor!

Commander Mark J. Fedor
Commanding Officer



Notes to the Crew from Home

OS1 Jayson Rodriguez

"We are thinking about you every minute of each day. Please be safe out there and we can not wait to see you again. We love you BERRY, BERRY MUCH! Love always Jayson Jr, Julissa, Christine."

ENS Johnston Ariail

John, Happy Valentines Day handsome! Wishing you safe travels and can't wait to have you home soon! Ice cream runs just aren't the same without you! Love Always, Lisa and Baby A."

SN Eric Pedroso

"To my son Eric, Hope you're staying safe and dry....you're in my prayers and we await your return, HAPPY VALENTINE DAY!!! From your family in Miami who love you and wish you and your crew mates a safe and prosperous journey!!! with love your PROUD MOM, Ivette."

MK3 Joseph Taylor

"Joey, We may not say it enough but we are very proud of you!! We love you and miss you lots! Dad and Mom."

SN Ronald Craven

"Love and kisses to our son, we miss you and know you are doing a great job. God bless you and the Mohawk. Keep safe and take care of each other. Love you forever. mom. dad. missy and choo choo."

ME1 Brandon Orlowicz

"Your girls miss you. xoxo."

ME1 Edward Van Riper

"We live on front porches and swing life away. We get by just fine here on minimum wage. If love was a labor I'd slave till the end. I won't cross these streets until you hold my hand. I love you Van, and can't wait till you are safe at home."

LT Christopher Lavin

"Chris/Daddy, We love all the fun things we do together! We love you lots! XO, Kara & Connor."

MK1 Walt Callenius

"Walt, I'm so proud of you and all of your accomplishments in the USCG. I am blessed to call you my Husband! I miss you and cannot wait to see your handsome face when you return from this deployment. I love you rike Ninja!! MUAH!! - Amberghinni."

Ensign Ben Yahle

" Happy Valentines Day from your family. Miss you and look forward to seeing you soon! Love, Mom"

Notes to the Crew from Home (cont'd)

EMC John Kane

"Hi Daddy, We love and miss you very much! You are our one and only Valentine! Love, Anna and Macie. P.S.-Mommy loves you too!"

FSC John Kalbach

"We just want to say: Happy Valentine's Day, we miss you, love you and are so proud of you. Thinking of you! Michelle, Alex and Keely"

EM2 James Hartsell

"Hoping you are having a decent time! Happy Valentines Day! Too bad I can't fatten you up with chocolate this year! :) Be good! We love and miss you! Hugs and many, many kisses! With love Kim, Bear, and December."

SK2 Timothy Eckery

"Tim, Not only today but in so many ways... for the rest of my life, I love you....You're all that I want and more than I deserve. Happy Valentines Day...Love always, Liz."

ENS John William Beal

"Querido Sobrino Juan, te envie este mensaje para el Dia de San Valentin: Como vas a estar al mar y muy lejos, Quiero decirte que te hecho de menos, Quizas muy pronto nos vamos a ver, Si esto se pasa seria mi placer! No esta tan malo, no? Te hecho de menos, como digo y te quiero mucho. Cuidate y hasta pronto. Besotes para ti y para todos tus companeros en la Guardia de la Costa. Tu tia, Bonnie."

"HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY to CDR Fedor and the crew of the MOHAWK! Fair winds and following seas! From Brenda and Bob Beal; To JO's Feeney, Yahle, Adams, Spira, Pourmonir, Timulak, and Ariail--please be our Valentines!!! Haha MomGB and BobGB; To Ensign John William Beal: Happy Valentine's Day! Love, Mum and Dad"

"To you John, and the whole MOHAWK crew, A HAPPY VALENTINES DAY TO ALL! Love you John, from Nana."

SN Joseph Edreira

"Hey Jojo, Just wanted to let you know how much you are missed and definitely how proud I am of you. You have gone out on adventures that I never dreamed of. I hope you are loving life. I hope you are taking every moment to enjoy your last patrol aboard the Mohawk. And as you prepare to embark on your next adventure and go off to A school, I hope you create memories to last you a lifetime. I love you sooooo much!!! Can't wait to see you. Love, Mom."

DC1 Richard Moore

"Happy Valentines Day daddy! We miss you and can't wait to see you again. Kisses and hugs. Love you lots and SMOOCHES, Patrick, Emma, and your lovely wife."

Notes from the Crew to Home

"Joe, I miss you and the dogs sooooo much!"

YN1 Michelle Holzer

"To my dear wife Christine I miss you very much and think about you everyday. Thank you for holding the fort down while I am away. Tell Jayson Jr. and Princess Julie that I love them and miss them very much. Can't wait to see you when I get home. Love, Jayson."

OS1 Jayson Rodriguez

"Dear Ali, Roses Are Red, Grass Is Green, I love you so much, you mean everything to me. You're the best

girlfriend ever and I hope you have an amazing valentines. Love, Ricky."

SN Ricardo Santiago

"Mum & Dad, I love you both very much. Happy Valentine's Day. Take each other out to dinner for me, and take Nana out to breakfast, haha. xoxo Love, John William."

ENS John William Beal

"Kimberly no matter how far apart we are or how rough the seas get I know at the end of the day you're the one I want to be with. Happy Valentines Day. Love, Donovan."

DC2 Donovan Butts

"Aloha to all of my friends and family. This patrol has been an interesting one and it has been full of unique challenges. Know that I'm always thinking of you guys and I wish everyone the very best. I had a great time in Puerto Rico. It's a beautiful place and one of my favorite port calls. To my wife, te quiero mucho mi bella esposa. Happy Valentines Day honey. Soon I'll be home and I promise I'll take you out to a nice dinner. How does Braza Lena sound? Mahalo, Keith."

OSC Jeoffrey Nielsen

"Happy Valentines Day, Lisa! There are so many things to look forward to and it makes it that much better knowing I have you by my side. You're the love of my life and I cannot wait to make it home to see you and the little one. Love, John."

ENS John Ariail

"Dear Kristin, Anna, and Macie, I love you, and miss you terribly. Your love and support means so much to me. Every day, I think about how lucky I am to have such a great family. Be good for Mommy, and I will be home soon. Happy Valentine's Day, EMC Daddy."

EMC John Kane

Training Ship MOHAWK and the Blackburn Sea Cadets

Blackburn Sea Cadets was founded in 1964, and we got our name from the HMS Mohawk F125, she was a Tribal Class Type Frigate (<http://www.hmsmohawk.org.uk/>). After HMS Mohawk was dismantled for razorblades, we had a stop gap till HMS Brave came along. She was decommissioned by the Navy and used for target practice as the Navy could not sell her. Since then the Unit does not have a parent ship that they can call her own.

TS Mohawk has had 5 Commanding Officers in her time. The present CO, Lt(SCC) J Redhead RNR, has been in post for 5 years. We have 11 staff, 13 Sea Cadets, 16 Royal Marines Cadets, and 9 Junior Cadets.

Each year the Unit is assessed on its efficiency. There are 3 levels: Burgee (above standard), Pennant (pass) and None (below standard). Since its formation the Unit has had a Burgee or Pennant; there are only very few units within the Sea Cadet Corps that can say that. We earned a Pennant for 2010-2011.

For 5 years the Unit did not have a HQ and worked out of school halls, church halls, and even tents. One year ago the unit was invited to build a new HQ at our local TA Centre (like your National Guard). We had to pay for this, as the Sea Cadets are a charity and not fully supported by the Government, and the cost to us was £130.000 pounds...not an easy sum of money for us to raise.

The Unit has had a busy year and has been very active, as you can see from the pictures you have seen and these here to I have sent you (some included below). It is great news that the USCGC Mohawk has taken us on-board here. We feel like we have come home.

Yours Aye,

Colour Sergeant Ian R. Hamer, XO

TS Mohawk SCC



(Ian Hamer is on the right of the picture above)

United States Coast Guard Cutter MOHAWK
(WMEC 913)

100 Trumbo Point Road
Key West, FL
33040

Phone: (305) 292-8750
Fax: (305) 292-8792



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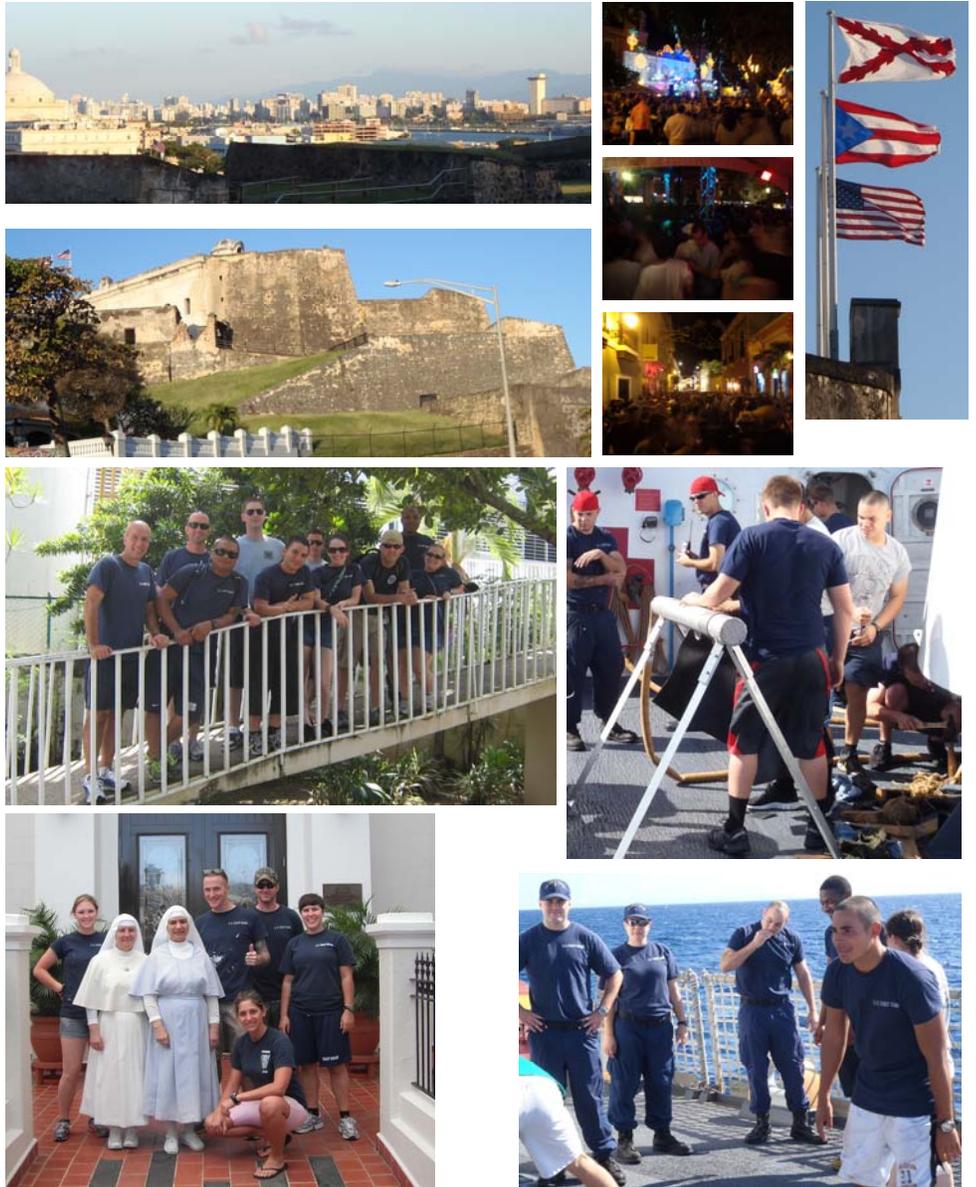
U.S. COAST GUARD CUTTER MOHAWK

We're on the Web!

[http://www.uscg.mil/lantarea/
cgcMohawk/default.asp](http://www.uscg.mil/lantarea/cgcMohawk/default.asp)

Congratulations to Sailor of the Quarter EM3 Richard Hutchinson

More Patrol Pictures



ABOVE: A mix of pictures from Puerto Rico, of the skyline, Castillo San Cristobal, las Tres Banderas, and a few of the San Sebastian festival.

Pictures of our shipmates who volunteered their time at the Greater San Juan Area Casa de Ninos Manuel Fernandez Juncos orphanage and other who volunteered at Las Siervas de Maria Convent clinic for the elderly in Old San Juan.

More DC Olympics pictures.